Updated Report: Saturday, 16th of December 2023

The seventy first Day of the Israeli aggression against Palestine

Daily Report on the Effects of the Israeli Aggression in Palestine

From October 7 until December 16, 2023

Some of the information contained in this report is as of Friday evening, 15th of December 2023.

The Emergency Operations Center at the Ministry of Health in Ramallah supervises the data collection process through its offices in Gaza. Numbers are updated every 24 hours. These numbers reflect confirmed statistics only but do not necessarily reflect all victims due to the fact that many victims are still missing under the rubble.

Current Situation:

Health System:

- Between October 7 and December 15, about 18,800 Palestinians were martyred in the Gaza Strip, according to data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, about 70% of whom were women and children. More than 51,000 people are reported to have been injured, with large number missing.
- Among the martyrs: more than 300 personnel working in the health sector, 86 journalists, about 35 civil defense crews, and 135 UNRWA employees.
- Since about 17:45 on 14 December and as of midnight on 15 December, communication with the Gaza Strip has been severely disrupted due to the shutdown of telecommunication and internet services in the Middle Area and southern Gaza after damage was reported to the main telecommunications fiber lines in Khan Younis.
- Telecommunication and internet services in North Gaza has been also impacted. This marks the fifth blackout since 7 October. As a result, this Flash Update provides limited updated information about the humanitarian situation in Gaza over the past 24 hours.

- On 15 December, an airstrike struck a school sheltering Internally Displaced People (IDPs), in Khan Yunis, reportedly 12 Palestinians martyred, and injuring dozens of others.
- Since 7 October, at least 288 IDPs sheltering in UNRWA shelters have been martyred and at least 998 injured, according to UNRWA.
- A total of 342 school buildings have sustained damage (about 70 per cent of all school buildings in Gaza). Seventy of the schools damaged are UNRWA schools, with at least 56 serving as shelters for IDPs.
- Tens of thousands of IDPs, who have arrived in Rafah, continue to face extremely overcrowded conditions both inside and outside shelters. With an estimated fourfold increase in population density, exceeding 12,000 per square kilometre, it is now the most densely populated area within the Gaza Strip.
- A new World Food Programme (WFP) rapid food security assessment reveals alarming trends in the food security situation in southern Gaza, with 44 per cent of assessed households facing very severe hunger. This is an increase from the 24 per cent recorded in the previous assessment undertaken during the humanitarian pause (24-30 November).
- The total number of wounded Palestinians and other medical cases evacuated since 7 October represents one per cent of the reported injury toll. This corresponds to 500 people, while an additional 8,000 of the reported 50,500 injured are said to require immediate medical intervention.
- On 14 December, for the third consecutive day, Israeli occupation forces, accompanied by tanks, raided Kamal Adwan Hospital, in Beit Lahiya, north of Gaza city.
- Israeli occupation forces forced all the 2,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) taking refuge inside the hospitals to leave, and evacuated the remaining wounded people and medical staff to the hospital grounds.
- The Israeli occupation forces prevented medical staff from providing support to 12 babies in intensive care and to ten injured people in the emergency department, leading to the death of two patients.

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- Over 70 medical staff, including the director of Kamal Adwan hospital, remain detained at an unknown location. That day, the World Health Organization (WHO) expressed its concern about the raid on Kamal Adwan Hospital.
- stock out of vaccinations in Gaza, leading to catastrophic health repercussions for children and the spread of diseases, especially among displaced people in overcrowded shelters. 360,000 cases of infectious diseases in shelters were documented, noting that the actual number is believed to be higher.
- Currently, only 11 out of 36 hospitals in the Gaza Strip are partially functional and able to admit new patients, although services are limited. Only one of these hospitals is in the north, according to WHO. The two major hospitals in southern Gaza are operating at three times their bed capacity, while facing critical shortages of basic supplies and fuel. Occupancy rates are now reaching 206 per cent in inpatient departments and 250 per cent in intensive care units. Additionally, these hospitals are providing shelter to thousands of FDPs.

Major Events: limited update in the past 24 hour due to severe disruption of communication

- Heavy Israeli bombardments from air, land, and sea across Gaza continued on 14 December, especially in Jabalia, in the northern Gaza Strip. As of December 14, between the afternoons of December 13 and 14, 179 Palestinians were martyred, and 303 were injured.
- Since 7 October, least 18,787 Palestinians were martyred and about 50,897 injured by the Israeli occupational attacks. About 70 per cent of the total fatalities are women and children. Many more people are missing, presumably buried under the rubble, waiting for rescue or recovery.
- Limited aid distributions continue to take place in Rafah governorate, where almost half of Gaza's population is now estimated to be residing. In the rest of the Gaza Strip, aid distribution has largely stopped, due to the intensity of Israeli aggression and restrictions on movement along the main roads,

- The Gaza Strip has remained under an electricity blackout since October 11, significantly impacting critical services.

Population and Displacement:

- On 13 December, the Israeli occupation forces designated an additional area southwest of Khan Younis city, encompassing about 1.4 square kilometers, for immediate evacuation. This area was home to about 37,000 residents and an estimated 5,000 FDPs who took shelter in three designated emergency shelters in October 2023. Similar evacuations orders were issued in previous days for a large area east of Khan Younis. Collectively, these areas in the Khan Younis governorate encompass about 22 per cent of the Gaza Strip
- As of 12 December, according to UNRWA, more than 1.9 million people in Gaza, or nearly 90 % of the population, were estimated to be forcibly displaced. Nearly 1.2 million of these FDPs were registered in 154 UNRWA facilities across Gaza, of whom about one million are registered in 94 UNRWA shelters in the south.
- On average, UNRWA shelters in the middle and southern areas are currently hosting nine times the planned number of FDPs.
- Obtaining an accurate count is challenging, given difficulties including in tracking FDPs staying with host families, the movement of FDPs following evacuation orders since 1 December, and the evacuation of five UNRWA shelters in eastern Khan Younis on 6 December.
- Since December 1st, various areas, comprising nearly 30% of the Gaza Strip, have been marked for forcible displacement by the Israeli Occupation.
- UNRWA is verifying recent reports of incidents at UNRWA facilities. Since 7 October, 156 Israeli attacks affecting UNRWA premises have been reported.

Public Health catastrophe:

- stock out of vaccinations in Gaza, leading to catastrophic health repercussions for children and the spread of diseases, especially among displaced people in overcrowded shelters. 360,000 cases of infectious diseases in shelters were documented, noting that the actual number is believed to be higher.
- With the onset of winter and decreasing temperatures, there is an immediate and critical requirement for blankets, warm clothing, and adequate shelters. Many forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) had to abandon their homes without any belongings, and the makeshift shelters are ill-prepared to withstand rain and wind, leading to floods. This situation heightens the risk of diseases during cold conditions, compounding the ongoing displacement crisis and posing a severe threat to public health and well-being.
- The remains of Gaza civilians, either buried beneath the rubble or left unattended due to the actions of Israeli occupation forces, are now undergoing decomposition in the streets and beneath the rubbles. This disturbing situation poses an imminent and significant risk of a public health crisis.
- The lack of formula for babies in the current situation poses a severe risk of starvation and dehydration, contributing to a public health crisis.
- Due to the overcrowding and poor sanitary conditions at UNRWA shelters in the south, there have been significant increases in some communicable diseases and conditions. The Ministry of Health in Gaza reported cases of meningitis, jaundice, impetigo, chickenpox, upper respiratory tract infections, smallpox, diarrhea, and influenza.
- The health conditions of FDPs outside UNRWA shelters are unclear, posing a public health risk due to limited access to medication, health facilities, and proper hygiene sources.
- On December 8th, the Gaza Municipality reported sewage flowing in the streets as pumping stations ceased operations due to a lack of fuel. Almost all water wells had also stopped working for the same reasons.
- Vulnerable groups face challenging shelter conditions, including people with disabilities, pregnant and breastfeeding women, individuals recovering from injuries or surgeries, and those with weakened immune systems.

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Destroyed Buildings:

- Exact numbers of destroyed buildings are unavailable due to continued bombings.
- Latest updates indicate over 60% of housing units destroyed, exacerbating health vulnerabilities.

The West Bank, including Jerusalem:

- Since October 7, (288) Palestinians have been martyred in the West Bank, including Jerusalem. The year 2023 is the bloodiest year for Palestinians in the West Bank since 2005, The number of martyrs since the beginning of 2023 reached (496) martyrs.
- Since 7 October, Israeli occupation forces have injured more than 3,450 Palestinians, including at least 535 children. An additional 84 Palestinians have been injured by settlers.
- Attacks on hospitals, health centers, and ambulances incre9se in the West Bank, limiting access to basic healthcare services.
- Settler attacks continue, with 331 incidents recorded since 7 October, resulting in casualties and damage to Palestinian-owned property.
- Since 7 October, at least 143 Palestinian households comprising 1,014 people, including 388 children, have been displaced amid settler violence and access restrictions.

Urgent Needs:

- Immediate cessation of Israeli brutal war against Palestinian civilians.
- Urgent implementation of international humanitarian laws protecting health institutions and civilians.
- Immediate and unconditional entry of humanitarian and health supplies into Gaza.
- Halt forcible displacement of civilians.
- Urgent support for search and rescue operations.

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